

J. WEINGARTNER & SON CIGAR FACTORY  
(North Wales News Agency)  
414 E. Walnut Street  
~~Ambler~~ NORTH WALES  
Montgomery County  
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-6168

HABS  
PA  
46-AMB,  
13-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

J. WEINGARTNER & SON CIGAR FACTORY  
(NORTH WALES NEWS AGENCY)

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Location: 414 East Walnut Street, ~~Ambler~~<sup>NORTH WALES</sup>, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: The Weingartner Cigar Factory is evidence of the once prominent cigar manufacturing industry of Montgomery County. The Weingartner building is interesting in part because it was designed as a combination residence/factory side by side rather than the typical over-and-under style of most commercial buildings in Montgomery County.

Description: This three story high, flat-roofed building is six bays by four bays. The walls are red brick from Barger's North Wales Brick Yard and the foundation is constructed of stone. The original facade was altered by the addition of a wraparound porch with a shed roof. This arrangement was later removed and a smaller wraparound overhang was installed ca. 1974.

Windows are decorative one-over-one double-hung sash. The upper has a central light smaller than the lower light, and it is surrounded on four sides by a ring of sixteen smaller multi-colored panes. Set into the facade on the second-story level are oval portals with diamond pattern panes. The cornice is bracketed, and the fascia embellished with dentil molding.

History: The News Agency building, ca. 1890, was originally designed as a combination cigar factory and residence for the family of John Weingartner Sr. The industry, established in 1860, was removed to this building on November 20, 1891. The ground, first, and second floors of the east half of the building were used in the manufacture and sale of cigars. In 1894, the firm turned out 2,000,000 cigars. The building was used as a cigar factory until about 1930. In the 1930s, a soda fountain and ice cream store opened in the eastern half. In 1972, the building became home to the North Wales News Agency, presently owned by Leon Lewis and used as a newsstand and corner store.

Sources: Johnson, Wilmer H. "Cigar Factory of J. Weingartner & Son." North Wales Record. 5 May 1894.

Smith, J.L. Atlas of Montgomery County. Philadelphia. 1893.

Leon and Clay Lewis, interview by author, Ambler, Pennsylvania, Summer 1994.

Historian: Tom Heard, HABS, Summer 1994.